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that law ; fourth, the firm belief in the existence of natural rights superior to all governmental authority. . . . ; fifth, the belief that, as a principle of English law, the courts would consider that an act of Parliament contrary to natural justice or reason was void and pass it into disuse; Back of all these ideas was a long course of English constitutional development in which judges had played a significant part in constitutional controversy. . . . The principle of legislative sovereignty as a possession of Parliament, was, on the other hand, a comparatively modern theory." As to this last point especial reference for support is made to Prof. C. H. McIlwain's *High Court of Parliament*.

Wisconsin: An Experiment in Democracy. By FREDERICK C. HOWE. (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1912. Pp. xii, 202.)

The Wisconsin Idea. By CHARLES MCCARTHY. (New York: The Macmillan Company, 1912. Pp. xvi, 316.)

We have here two stimulating *hors d'oeuvres*. They whet the appetite for more. The reader, while enjoying them, longs for the more-solid *piece de resistance*—one that will satisfy his desire for a really thorough study of the character and results of the interesting experiment that the state of Wisconsin has been making in the political science domain.

Both of the authors are products of training now afforded in our leading universities in the study of problems of government and administration. Both, however, have extended their activities beyond the academic field and their viewpoint is that of the worker in the practical conduct of public affairs. The fact that neither of the works pretends to furnish that dispassionate examination of the subjects dealt with which one ordinarily expects to find in academic studies, by no means detracts from their value. Interest is rather stimulated by the fact that we are given descriptions of political pioneering by persons ardently believing that the paths chosen lead in the right direction.

One finds in these companion volumes a thoroughly readable account, not only of the general reform movement that has held sway in Wisconsin during recent years, but a particular consideration of the several changes affected. These changes fall partly in the economic and partly in the political field. In the former, notable advances have been made in the direction of the protection of the workman and the provision of

means for his insurance. The industrial commission that has been established is one of the most interesting institutions for the promotion of the welfare of the laboring classes that has been created in recent years. In Dr. Howe's work major attention has been paid to these matters of social and economic reform. He also gives an eulogistic appreciation of the character and career of La Follette to whom he rightfully ascribes leadership in the movement for reform.

Dr. McCarthy's work, on the other hand, deals rather with changes that have been effected in the political institutions of the state. The reviewer found chief interest in the chapter entitled "The Law and Economic Progress." In this chapter high praise is accorded the supreme court of Wisconsin for the advanced position taken by it in seeking to render effective the will of the people as represented through its legislature, and in refusing to give undue weight to legal technicalities. The position taken by the Wisconsin court is precisely that so ably argued for by Woodrow Wilson in his *Constitutional Government in the United States*: namely, that a written constitution is not a legal document, such as a will or deed, to be interpreted in accordance with narrow rules of strict construction, but a thoroughly human document, the provisions of which must be interpreted according to the conditions to which they are applied.

In both works attention is drawn to the prominent part played by the University of Wisconsin in the political life of the community, and the extent to which use has been made by the state of its plant and personnel. In important respects, indeed, the University has become an integral part of the political machinery of the commonwealth.

W. F. WILLOUGHBY.

Germany and the German Emperor. By HERBERT FERRIS.
(New York: Henry Holt and Company, 1912. Pp. viii, 512.)

A work that will enable us to understand better the national life and character of another people is always welcome. It is not necessary that it should represent original research in its narrowest sense in order to be of value. The present work can be roughly divided into two parts. The first half deals with the historical foundations and early development of Germany. Here ground is covered that has been repeatedly traversed and little new information is provided. The last half of the work is of a different character. It deals strictly with modern Germany, its political problems, foreign and domestic, its wonderful growth in